

Rush	Skelton	Towns
Ryan (OH)	Slaughter	Udall (CO)
Sabo	Smith (WA)	Udall (NM)
Salazar	Snyder	Van Hollen
Sánchez, Linda T.	Solis	Velázquez
Sánchez, Loretta	Spratt	Visclosky
Sanders	Stark	Wasserman
Schakowsky	Strickland	Schultz
Schiff	Stupak	Watson
Schwartz (PA)	Tanner	Watt
Scott (GA)	Tauscher	Waxman
Scott (VA)	Taylor (MS)	Weiner
Serrano	Thompson (CA)	Wexler
Sherman	Thompson (MS)	Wu
	Tierney	Wynn

NOT VOTING—27

Blumenauer	Everett	Menendez
Boyd	Green, Gene	Pascarell
Brown-Waite,	Hastings (WA)	Paul
Ginny	Hayes	Peterson (PA)
Buyer	Holden	Sullivan
Chocola	Hyde	Walden (OR)
Coble	Jones (NC)	Waters
DeFazio	Kind	Woolsey
Doyle	McDermott	
Etheridge	McNulty	

□ 1548

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida changed her vote from “aye” to “no.” Mr. SOUDER changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the motion to table was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4297.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McHENRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4437, BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

(Mr. PUTNAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee may meet next week to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 4437, the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Rules Committee in room H-312 of the Capitol by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2005. Members should draft their amendments to the bill as reported by the Judiciary Committee on December 8, 2005, which is expected to be filed with the House next week. Members are also advised that the text should be available for their review on the Web sites of the Judiciary and Rules Committees by Friday, December 9.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that

their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4099

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 4099.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3875

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3875.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the acting majority leader, for the purpose of inquiring about the schedule for the week to come.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the House will convene on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will consider several measures under suspension of the rules. A final list of those bills will be sent to Members' offices by the end of the week. Any votes called on these measures will be rolled until 6:30 p.m.

For Wednesday and the balance of the week, the House will consider additional legislation under suspension of the rules, as well as H.R. 4437, the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005, under a rule. We also anticipate the House will consider additional conference reports, including the USA PATRIOT Act; the Labor, Health and Human Services and Department of Defense appropriations bills; and possibly the deficit reduction and tax relief packages.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

As you know, a lot of work remains to be done which is supposed to be, as I understand it, may be, I suppose, our last week. Many hope it will be our last week, at least for the month, including the completion of the conference report, as you have said, on Labor-Health and DOD appropriation, the DOD authorization, TRIA, PATRIOT Act.

So for Members' planning purposes, can you tell me when you expect to finish work for the year?

Mr. BLUNT. Once we return on Tuesday, the Members should expect the House to be in session and voting every day until we adjourn. That could happen as early as next Thursday, but certainly by next Saturday or possibly Sunday, and we would not anticipate returning until we return after the first of the year.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

If we do not pass, for whatever reasons, the DOD appropriation bill and the Labor-Health appropriation bill, presumably we will need a CR. Could the leader tell me how long you would anticipate that CR being?

Mr. BLUNT. We have not contemplated that because we do expect to pass both of those bills next week before we leave. I think we are absolutely committed to do that and expect to see both of those on the floor individually, and we will then have brought all of our appropriations work to the floor individually, though certainly one of those bills, probably the Department of Defense bill, will include whatever additional appropriations have to be handled before we leave this year. But we would expect to handle those under regular order and would only contemplate a CR if that became the absolute only resort left to us. I would not anticipate that.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

Focusing on the DOD bills, the authorization and the appropriation bill, technically, as I understand it, we have not gone to conference on either one of those at this point in time. One of the reasons is, I presume, that there will be a motion to instruct on the McCain amendment on one of those bills. Can the gentleman tell me when we might have a motion to go to conference? I know you have talked about them coming on the floor as conference reports, but in light of the fact we have not gone to conference yet, could the gentleman inform me as to when we might have a motion to go to conference?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my friend for yielding and would say that we expect those motions early in the week. I thought even today we might get one of those motions today as the work is done to try to work through some of the things that appear to be problems in the conference that need to be worked out, and I would expect to see that happen early in the week in both instances.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, this is not a question, but let me tell you the difficult position this puts us in, which I hope we ought to really preclude in the future in fairness.

The purpose of a motion to instruct conferees is obviously to convey to them the opinion of the House as it relates to the product of the conference. Clearly, if that motion is not made until essentially after the conference work is done, the motion essentially is of little, if any, value. I understand the

problem that the majority has been dealing with and the differences between the administration and at least the Senate. But it does place us in a position where essentially whatever the House might want to do on a motion to instruct would be essentially a meaningless act.

That is certainly not, I think, the intent of the rule for a motion to instruct, nor is it the spirit, I think, of the rule. The gentleman does not have to comment on it. If he wanted to make a comment on it, I would be glad to hear it; but I think you understand our consternation for those of us who particularly feel very strongly on the importance and the appropriateness of the McCain amendment as passed by the Senate being in the final bill. Again, the gentleman does not have to comment on that. If he would like to, I will certainly yield.

Mr. BLUNT. I would only say that I understand the point. I also understand, as the gentleman does, in this particular case, the White House was highly involved in the discussion in the Senate; and it does seem to me that this is an issue of unusual sensitivity and important to try to work through as much as we could before we put our conferees in place, but I clearly understand the position that the whip has on that and appreciate it.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

On the budget reconciliation conference, when do you expect that to hit the floor?

Mr. BLUNT. We are hopeful that both of these reconciliation conferences can proceed. Both the tax conference and the deficit reduction conference are very complicated. It is our hope we can work through these, get these in place and work through them next week; but there is a tremendous amount of work that needs to be done because of the differences in the bills. We are hopeful that we go to conference next week on one or both of those issues, and then could even get one or both of them back to the floor to vote on the conference product next week, if that is at all possible.

Mr. HOYER. I understand that knowing a specific day on which that could be done would be practically impossible. I appreciate the gentleman's observation.

On the border security and immigration bill, which you note will be on the calendar next week, can you tell us whether or not we can anticipate that being on, presumably, either Wednesday or Thursday? We are coming back Tuesday night. You indicated it is possible we could get out Thursday. So I presume that bill, which is ready for the floor, will be on either Wednesday or Thursday. Can you tell us specifically when you might anticipate that bill being on the floor?

Mr. BLUNT. As I said, we intend to have that bill on the floor next week. I think it is probably more likely to be on Thursday, but that decision will be a lot easier to make once we get a

greater sense of how all of the work next week will present itself. Certainly we hope to have these two appropriations measures on the floor; and as we have discussed before in the last few minutes, the importance of getting them done next week. The PATRIOT Act also will be on the floor next week, we anticipate.

□ 1600

And depending on how that work becomes available to us will determine the scheduling of the border security provisions. I do not think it is likely that that will be on the floor on Wednesday, but it is not impossible. I think it is more likely that that bill will be on the floor on Thursday, or maybe even later if other measures present themselves quicker than we think.

Mr. HOYER. Thank you. Reclaiming my time, as I understand it, the border security and immigration, one comes out of Homeland Security and one comes out of Judiciary. Mr. Leader, do you anticipate that they will be joined for purposes of consideration on the floor, or is it your anticipation that we will consider each one of them individually? I yield to my friend.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for yielding. Those bills were combined into one bill in the Judiciary Committee markup today, so I would expect to see that as one bill. And amendments could be submitted to the Rules Committee on that bill and the Rules Committee, I am sure, will allow some amendments on the floor as well.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

Something that is not on the notice, but there has been significant discussion of and great interest in on our side as well as your side, is the pension bill. I notice it is not on the announcement, but do you anticipate that that might be on the calendar; or has that been decided to go over? I yield to my friend.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my friend for yielding. This is an important topic for us to deal with. Pension security is incredibly important to Americans and their future.

We believe we have a good bill from the Ways and Means Committee and the Education and Workforce Committee that has been put together. But I also understand that because both bodies have to be involved, it is highly unlikely that whatever we do would find its way to the President's desk this year.

At the same time, circumstances might allow us to move that bill next week. But I would not put that on the list of things that we are almost certain to do, but certainly it is on the list of things we are looking at to see if there is a way we can go ahead and advance a House position so that our friends on the other side of the Capitol can move on this issue as well, and early next year, we could come to conclusion on an issue that is so critically important to so many Americans and their families.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. As he observes and I have observed, there is great interest. We know this is an important piece of legislation. Both sides and I think all interest groups want to address his issue as soon as we can. Hopefully, we can work together to effect a piece of legislation that can enjoy bipartisan support, can pass, and go into effect to assist so many millions of Americans who are concerned about the security that they have in their pensions. I know that is your desire, our desire, and hopefully we can proceed on that.

Mr. Leader, Mr. TAYLOR from Mississippi is on the floor and Mr. MELANCON from Louisiana was also on the floor. Both of them had inquired of me, appropriately, the status of the Katrina relief legislation. We are very interested in that being brought to the floor next week. It is my understanding that it probably will be, but it might be brought to the floor attached to another bill.

That is a critical piece of legislation. I think all of us want to make sure that we have the resources necessary and some of the legislative authorizations and law necessary to facilitate rehabilitation of the gulf area. Can you tell me when that might come to the floor and on what vehicle it might come to the floor, either as a free-standing bill or attached to another?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my friend for yielding, and I would like to remind my friend, as I am sure I do not need to, but the tax portion of this, also significant in terms of redeveloping the gulf coast, we did pass that bill this week as a stand-alone measure, so that no matter what happens this year in reconciliation we have an opportunity to move forward with Katrina tax relief.

We also need to move forward with other kinds of relief. As you mentioned, Mr. TAYLOR and Mr. MELANCON and other Members, our Members from Mississippi, Louisiana, east Texas, and Alabama have all been very interested in moving forward on relief for the families that are affected. I believe there is a broad understanding that we need to do this before the end of the year.

I do think, Mr. Whip, it is likely that that relief package will be part of one of these last two appropriation measures to move across the floor. I believe that works best for ensuring that this happens on both sides of the Capitol, both this body and the other body. And I would expect to see that Katrina relief package, with significant elements of items that the gentleman mentioned and others are interested in, will be in either the Department of Defense appropriations bill, as part of that debate, discussion, and vote, or in the Labor-HHS vote at another time in the week.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for those remarks. Clearly, that is critical not only, as I said, to the people

that you mentioned from the areas affected, but to all of us who want to ensure assistance gets to the people there. And while the tax provisions may well be important, they are longer-term impacts, and in some respects shorter-term impacts, that we would otherwise provide.

Lastly, Mr. Leader, if I can, can you perhaps give us a preview of the schedule for next year? It is our understanding on this side that the probability is we will not be returning until the 31st of January. Has that been decided? Can you confirm that and maybe give us a brief preview of what our schedule next month and the months thereafter in the year to come might be?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and before I go to that, I would like to say, and I would hope he would share my view of this, that while the Katrina supplemental is important and needs to be done before the end of the year, that also anything in the tax structure that encourages rebuilding, making a decision to get your business back in the affected area rather than stay somewhere else you may have moved to is also important.

I would not want our colleagues on the other side of the building to think that somehow the tax portion of this can wait until next year. They both need to be done this year, and we are going to work hard to see that both of those things get done this year.

We have worked this year well beyond our schedule to work in Washington. Members had every reason to believe before the August work period that they would be home now and would have been home for several weeks talking about what we have done and what we hope to do. But when we do go home at the end of the next working series of days we will be working, we would anticipate that the Members would not come back until the 31st of January, and the first votes for the second session would occur on and after that date.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2005 AND HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2005

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, for morning hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McHENRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO CARROLL CAMPBELL, FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in brief comment about a former Member of this House who passed away this week, Carroll Campbell. As one who came to this House with Carroll Campbell in January of 1979, I would say that if you were to draw a blueprint for an outstanding Member of Congress, you could do no better than to look to Carroll Campbell. Carroll Campbell served tremendously as the governor of his home State of South Carolina, but before that, served with great honor and distinction in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I can say that he was a man of great integrity. He was one that you admired in every aspect. I can recall him being the first Member from my side of the aisle south of the Mason-Dixon line who came out in support of the extension of the Voting Rights Act. He provided leadership in so many areas, whether tax policy, national defense or otherwise.

Carroll Campbell was a champion. Carroll Campbell left us far too soon, and we send our words, our good wishes, and our hopes with his wife and his children. This House is a greater place because of the service rendered to this House by Carroll Campbell.

IRAQ: COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE

(Ms. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to voice my support for our mission in Iraq and the global war on terror.

We stand at a critical juncture in the history of Iraq and in our own history. Do we ignore the steady progress toward democracy in Iraq? Do we hand victory to the terrorist insurgency on the eve of the historic December 15 elections? Or do we remain committed to the cause of freedom at home and abroad?

Our Nation already knows of the price of victory and how great it is, but the cost of failure would be far greater.

As Democratic National Committee Chair Howard Dean was engaging in

the politics of partisans and the demagoguery of doubters, I was visiting with our amputees in the Walter Reed Medical Hospital. These brave men and women know why we are fighting and why we must continue to fight. They know better than any of us why their brothers in arms have died fighting. Their sacrifices have been made in the name of freedom and in the pursuit of victory.

Not only is victory in Iraq possible, but it is within reach. Faced with long painful recoveries, these soldiers focus on the positive and what can be done and what will be done. We owe them the same.

It is not the time for retreat. It is the time for our Nation's civilian leadership to stand with them. Their sacrifice obligates us to demonstrate the same level of commitment and dedication to this cause of freedom. And each day as a Nation, we are more indebted to these extraordinary men and women with whom I visited.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT BILL MEEUWSEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the three words from the official seal of the United States Army states: "This we'll defend." Sergeant Bill Meeuwsen was a member of the Army and he died carrying out this motto, defending the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Bill Meeuwsen. He was truly a remarkable person. Bill was born in Mount Vernon, Washington, on February 10, 1981, and when he was 10 years old, he and his family found their way to southeast Texas and moved to Kingwood, Texas. He attended Kingwood High School, one of the finest high schools in this country, and he graduated in 1999.

He went on to Texas A&M University, and he and some of his friends enlisted in the United States Army as a result of the attacks of September 11, 2001. His father Mike said "Bill strongly believed that we all share a responsibility to serve on behalf of God and country, to protect freedoms we all cherish so deeply." It was that sense of